

A QUANTITATIVE NOTION OF REDUNDANCY FOR INFINITE FRAMES

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ABSTRACT. Bodmann, Casazza and Kutyniok introduced a quantitative notion of redundancy for finite frames - which they called *upper and lower redundancies* - that match better with an intuitive understanding of redundancy for finite frames in a Hilbert space. The objective of this paper is to see how much of this theory generalizes to infinite frames.

1. INTRODUCTION

The customary notion of redundancy for a finite frame $\{\phi_i\}_{i=1}^N$ in \mathcal{H}_n is to use $\frac{N}{n}$. Many people have felt for a long time that this was not really satisfactory since it assigns *redundancy* 2 to each of the following frames (where $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H}_n):

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_1 &= \{e_1, e_1, e_2, e_2, \dots, e_n, e_n\}; \\ \Phi_2 &= \{e_1, \dots, e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots, e_n\}, \text{ where } e_1 \text{ occurs } (n+1)\text{-times,} \\ \Phi_3 &= \{e_1, 0, e_2, 0, \dots, e_n, 0\}.\end{aligned}$$

The frame Φ_1 has redundancy 2 and is a disjoint union of two spanning sets and a disjoint union of two linearly independent sets. This description of redundancy is informative. But for Φ_2 , the frame is heavily concentrated in one dimension of the space. In particular, this frame is made up of just one spanning set and it requires $(n+1)$ -linearly independent sets to represent it. Finally, the frame Φ_3 is made up of one orthonormal basis and a collection of zero vectors. Assigning this frame redundancy 2 is quite misleading. Although zero vectors are important in some areas of frame theory, such as filter bank theory, counting them in redundancy gives no useful information. What is important, is to keep track of the number of zero vectors while not letting them artificially increase redundancy.

In this paper, we generalize the results of [9] by applying their quantitative notion of redundancy for finite frames in a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} , to infinite frames. Most of the results carry over easily, but a few fail in this setting.

Concerning infinite-dimensional Hilbert spaces, much work has been done on the idea of *deficits, excesses and redundancy* [2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6]. In [7], the authors provide a meaningful quantitative notion of redundancy which applies to general infinite frames. In their work, redundancy is defined as the reciprocal of a so-called frame measure function, which is a function of certain averages of inner products of frame elements with their corresponding dual frame elements. More recently, in [6], it is shown that ℓ_1 -localized frames satisfy several

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properties intuitively linked to redundancy such as that any frame with redundancy greater than one should contain in it a frame with redundancy arbitrarily close to one, the redundancy of any frame for the whole space should be greater than or equal to one, and that the redundancy of a Riesz basis should be exactly one, were proven for this notion. Our approach is slightly different in that we are interested in how many spanning sets or linearly independent sets are in the frame. However, our notion does not capture much information about infinite frames whose frame vectors are not bounded. We will give examples to show the problems with our notion of redundancy for unbounded frames.

1.1. Review of Frames. We start by fixing our terminology while briefly reviewing the basic definitions related to frames. Let \mathcal{H} denote an n -dimensional real or complex Hilbert space and \mathcal{H} denotes a finite or infinite dimensional Hilbert space. A *frame* for a Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is a family of vectors $\{\phi_i\}_{i \in I}$ (with $|I|$ finite or infinite) for which there exists constants $0 < A \leq B < \infty$ such that

$$A\|x\|^2 \leq \sum_{i \in I} |\langle x, \phi_i \rangle|^2 \leq B\|x\|^2 \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathcal{H}.$$

When A is chosen as the largest possible value and B as the smallest for these inequalities to hold, then we call them the (*optimal*) *frame constants*. If A and B can be chosen as $A = B$, then the frame is called *A-tight*, and if $A = B = 1$ is possible, Φ is a *Parseval frame*. A frame is called *equal-norm*, if there exists some $c > 0$ such that $\|\phi_i\| = c$ for all $i = 1, \dots, N$, and it is *unit-norm* if $c = 1$.

Apart from providing redundant expansions, frames can also serve as an analysis tool. In fact, they allow the analysis of data by studying the associated *frame coefficients* $(\langle x, \phi_i \rangle)_{i \in I}$, where the operator T_Φ defined by $T_\Phi : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \ell_2(I)$, $x \mapsto (\langle x, \phi_i \rangle)_{i \in I}$ is called the *analysis operator*. The adjoint T_Φ^* of the analysis operator is typically referred to as the *synthesis operator* and satisfies $T_\Phi^*((c_i)_{i \in I}) = \sum_{i \in I} c_i \phi_i$. The main operator associated with a frame, which provides a stable reconstruction process, is the *frame operator*

$$S_\Phi = T_\Phi^* T_\Phi : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, \quad x \mapsto \sum_{i \in I} \langle x, \phi_i \rangle \phi_i,$$

a positive, self-adjoint invertible operator on \mathcal{H} . In the case of a Parseval frame, we have $S_\Phi = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{H}}$. In general, S_Φ allows reconstruction of a signal $x \in \mathcal{H}$ through the reconstruction formula

$$x = \sum_{i \in I} \langle x, S_\Phi^{-1} \phi_i \rangle \phi_i. \tag{1}$$

The sequence $(S_\Phi^{-1} \phi_i)_{i=1}^N$ which can be shown to form a frame itself, is often referred to as the *canonical dual frame*.

We note that the choice of coefficients in the expansion (1) is generally not the only possible one. If the frame is linearly dependent – which is typical in applications – then there exist infinitely many choices of coefficients $(c_i)_{i=1}^N$ leading to expansions of $x \in \mathcal{H}$ by

$$x = \sum_{i \in I} c_i \phi_i. \tag{2}$$

This fact, for instance, ensures resilience to erasures and noise. The particular choice of coefficients displayed in (1) is the smallest in ℓ_2 norm [20], hence contains the least energy. A different paradigm has recently received rapidly increasing attention [11], namely to choose the coefficient sequence to be sparse in the sense of having only few non-zero entries, thereby allowing data compression while preserving perfect recoverability.

For a more extensive introduction to frame theory, we refer the interested reader to the books [21, 29, 20] as well as to the survey papers [26, 27].

1.2. An Intuition-Driven Approach to Redundancy. In order to properly define a quantitative notion of redundancy, the authors of [9] first gave a list of desiderata that a notion is required to satisfy.

1.3. Desiderata. Summarizing and analyzing the requirements we have discussed, we state the following list of desired properties for an upper redundancy \mathcal{R}_Φ^+ and a lower redundancy \mathcal{R}_Φ^- of a frame $\Phi = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ for a finite or infinite dimensional real or complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} .

- [D1] *Zero Vectors.* Redundancy should not count zero vectors.
- [D2] *Generalization.* If Φ is an equal-norm Parseval frame, then in this special case the customary notion of redundancy shall be attained, i.e., $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+$.
- [D3] *Nyquist Property.* The condition $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+$ shall characterize tightness of a normalized version of Φ , thereby supporting the intuition that upper and lower redundancy being different implies ‘non-uniformity’ of the frame. In particular, $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ = 1$ shall be equivalent to orthogonality as the ‘limit-case’.
- [D4] *Upper and Lower Redundancy.* Upper and lower redundancy shall be ‘naturally’ related by $0 < \mathcal{R}_\Phi^- \leq \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ < \infty$.
- [D5] *Additivity.* Upper and lower redundancy shall be subadditive and superadditive, respectively, with respect to unions of frames. They shall be additive provided that the redundancy is uniform, i.e., $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+$.
- [D6] *Invariance.* Redundancy shall be invariant under the action of a unitary operator on the frame vectors, under scaling of single frame vectors, as well as under permutation, since intuitively all these actions should have no effect on, for instance, robustness against erasures, which is one property redundancy shall intuitively measure.
- [D7] *Spanning Sets.* The lower redundancy shall measure the maximal number of spanning sets of which the frame consists. This immediately implies that the lower redundancy is a measure for robustness of the frame against erasures in the sense that any set of a particular number of vectors can be deleted yet leave a frame.
- [D8] *Linearly Independent Sets.* The upper redundancy shall measure the minimal number of linearly independent sets of which the frame consists.

It is straightforward to verify that for the special type of frames consisting of orthonormal basis vectors, each repeated a certain number of times, the upper and lower redundancies given by the maximal or minimal number of repetitions satisfy these conditions. The challenge is now to extend this definition to all frames in such a way that as many of these properties as possible are preserved.

2. DEFINING REDUNDANCY

2.1. Definitions. As explained before, we first introduce a local redundancy given in [9], which encodes the concentration of frame vectors around one point. Since the norms of the frame vectors do not matter for concentration, we normalize the given frame and also consider only points on the unit sphere $\mathbb{S} = \{x \in \mathcal{H} : \|x\| = 1\}$ in \mathcal{H} . Hence another way to view local redundancy is by considering it as some sort of density function on the sphere. A consequence of normalizing the frame vectors, is that our new set may no longer be Bessel.

We now define a notion of local redundancy. For this, we remark that throughout the paper, we let $\langle y \rangle$ denote the span of some $y \in \mathcal{H}$ and $P_{\langle y \rangle}$ the orthogonal projection onto $\langle y \rangle$.

Definition 2.1. Let $\Phi = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ be a frame for \mathcal{H} . For each $x \in \mathbb{S}$, the redundancy function $\mathcal{R}_\Phi : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi(x) = \sum_{i \in I} \|P_{\langle \varphi_i \rangle}(x)\|^2.$$

We might think about the function \mathcal{R}_Φ as a redundancy pattern on the sphere, which measures redundancy at each single point. Also notice that this notion is reminiscent of the fusion frame condition [13], here for rank-one projections.

In contrast to [9], this redundancy function may not assume its maximum or minimum on the unit sphere and in general both the max and min of this function could be infinite.

We now define:

Definition 2.2. Let $\Phi = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ be a frame for \mathcal{H} . Then the upper redundancy of Φ is defined by

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{S}} \mathcal{R}_\Phi(x)$$

and the lower redundancy of Φ by

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \inf_{x \in \mathbb{S}} \mathcal{R}_\Phi(x).$$

Moreover, Φ has a uniform redundancy, if

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+.$$

This notion of redundancy hence equals the upper and lower frame bound of the normalized version of the frame - which could now be infinite.

3. THE CASE OF INFINITE REDUNDANCY

3.1. Main Result. With the previously defined quantitative notion of upper and lower redundancy, we can now verify the properties from Subsection 1.3 which hold (and those which do not hold) in the infinite dimensional setting.

Theorem 3.1. Let $\Phi = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ be a frame for an ∞ -dimensional real or complex Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and assume that $\mathcal{R}^+ < \infty$.

[D1] Generalization. If Φ is an equal-norm Parseval frame, then

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+.$$

[D2] Nyquist Property. *The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) *We have $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+$.*
 - (ii) *The normalized version of Φ is tight.*
- Also the following conditions are equivalent.*
- (i') *We have $\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ = 1$.*
 - (ii') *Φ is orthogonal.*

[D3] Upper and Lower Redundancy. *We have*

$$0 < \mathcal{R}_\Phi^- \leq \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ < \infty.$$

[D4] Additivity. *For each orthonormal basis $(e_i)_{i=1}^n$,*

$$\mathcal{R}_{\Phi \cup (e_i)_{i=1}^n}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm + 1.$$

Moreover, for each frame Φ' in \mathcal{H} ,

$$\mathcal{R}_{\Phi \cup \Phi'}^- \geq \mathcal{R}_\Phi^- + \mathcal{R}_{\Phi'}^-, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}_{\Phi \cup \Phi'}^+ \leq \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ + \mathcal{R}_{\Phi'}^+.$$

In particular, if Φ and Φ' have uniform redundancy, then

$$\mathcal{R}_{\Phi \cup \Phi'}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm + \mathcal{R}_{\Phi'}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_{\Phi \cup \Phi'}^\pm.$$

[D5] Invariance. *Redundancy is invariant under application of a unitary operator U on \mathcal{H} , i.e.,*

$$\mathcal{R}_{U(\Phi)}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm,$$

under scaling of the frame vectors, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{R}_{(c_i \varphi_i)_{i=1}^N}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm, \quad c_i \text{ scalars,}$$

and under permutations, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{R}_{(\varphi_{\pi(i)})_{i=1}^N}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm, \quad \pi \in S_{\{1, \dots, N\}},$$

[D6] Spanning Sets. *In the finite setting, Φ contains $\lfloor \mathcal{R}_\Phi^- \rfloor$ disjoint spanning sets. In the infinite dimensional setting, this property fails as we will show with an example.*

[D7] Linearly Independent Sets. *Φ can be partitioned into $\lceil \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ \rceil$ linearly independent sets.*

Proof. The properties [D1] is true because redundancy is the upper and lower frame bounds of the normalized version of the frame.

The first part of [D2] is true by definition and for the second part of [D3], it is well known that a unit norm Parseval frame must be an orthonormal basis.

Property [D4] follows easily from the argument in [9].

Property [D5] is obvious.

Property [D6] fails as we will see in the next section.

[D7] follows from Theorem 4.2 of [12] which states that: Every Bessel sequence $\{\varphi_i\}_{i \in I}$ with Bessel bound B and $\|\varphi_i\| \geq c$ for all $i \in I$ (in our case $c = 1$), can be decomposed into $\lceil B/c^2 \rceil$ linearly independent sets. \square

The redundancy function gives little information near the extreme cases - as was true in the finite dimensional case, as the following example shows.

Example 3.2. We add a example in which the frame is not merely composed of vectors from the unit basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$. Letting $0 < \varepsilon < 1$, we choose $\Phi_4 = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ as

$$\varphi_i = \begin{cases} e_1 & : i = 1, \\ \sqrt{1 - \varepsilon^2}e_1 + \varepsilon e_i & : i \neq 1 \\ e_i & : i > N. \end{cases}$$

This frame is strongly concentrated around the vector e_1 . We first observe that

$$\mathcal{R}_{\Phi_3}(e_1) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|P_{\langle \varphi_i \rangle}(e_1)\|^2 = 1 + \sum_{i=2}^N |\langle e_1, \sqrt{1 - \varepsilon^2}e_1 + \varepsilon e_i \rangle|^2 = 1 + (N - 1)(1 - \varepsilon^2).$$

However, this is not the maximum, which is in fact attained at the average point of the frame vectors. But in order to avoid clouding the intuition by technical details, we omit this analysis, and observe that

$$1 + (N - 1)(1 - \varepsilon^2) \leq \mathcal{R}_{\Phi_4}^+ < N.$$

Since

$$\mathcal{R}_{\Phi_4}(e_2) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|P_{\langle \varphi_i \rangle}(e_2)\|^2 = \sum_{i=2}^N |\langle e_2, \sqrt{1 - \varepsilon^2}e_1 + \varepsilon e_i \rangle|^2 = \varepsilon^2,$$

we can conclude similarly, that

$$0 < \mathcal{R}_{\Phi_4}^- \leq \varepsilon^2.$$

The frame Φ_3 shows that the new redundancy notion gives little information near the extreme cases: $\mathcal{R}^- \approx 0$ and \mathcal{R}^+ large, but becomes increasingly more accurate as \mathcal{R}^- and \mathcal{R}^+ become closer to one another. By [D2], the frame Φ_4 is not orthogonal, nor is it tight. [D6] is not applicable for this frame, since $[\mathcal{R}_{\Phi_4}^-] = 0$ although there does exist a partition into one spanning set. Now, [D7] implies that this frame can be partitioned into $N - 1$ linearly independent sets. Again, we see that we can do better than this by merely taking the whole frame which happens to be linearly independent. As before, we observe that [D7] is not sharp for large values of \mathcal{R}^+ . However, these become increasingly accurate as \mathcal{R}^- and \mathcal{R}^+ approach each other.

4. INFINITE EQUAL NORM PARSEVAL FRAMES

It is easy to construct infinite equal norm Parseval frames for which the norms of the vectors are arbitrarily close to one.

Theorem 4.1. *For any $r \leq 1$, there is an equal norm Parseval frame $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ for ℓ_2 with $\|\varphi_i\|^2 = r$, for all $i = 1, 2, \dots$*

Proof. Given the orthonormal basis $\{e^{2\pi i n t}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$, let $E \subset [0, 1]$ be a measurable set for which $|E| = r$. Then

$$\{e^{2\pi i n t} \chi_E\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

is a Parseval frame of norm r vectors. □

5. INFINITE PARSEVAL FRAMES

Since *linear independence* is so weak in the infinite dimensional setting, we will now see that (equal norm Parseval) frames can have some surprising properties. This will affect our work in this area.

Example 5.1. *For every natural number $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there is an equal norm Parseval frame for ℓ_2 which can be written as j -linearly independent and disjoint spanning sets, for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$.*

Proof. It is straightforward to choose families of vectors $\{f_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^\infty$ satisfying:

- (1) The vectors $\{f_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^\infty$ are linearly independent.
- (2) For each $j = 1, 2, \dots$, we have that $\text{span } \{f_{ij}\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is dense in ℓ_2 .

It follows that if we apply Gram-Schmidt to $\{f_{ij}\}_{i=1}^\infty$ for each $j = 1, 2, \dots$, we get a sequence of orthonormal basis $\{g_{ij}\}_{i=1}^\infty$ for ℓ_2 , with the property that $\{g_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^\infty$ is a linearly independent set. Fix $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and consider the family:

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} f_{ij} \right\}_{i,j=1}^{\infty, k}.$$

This family clearly has the desired properties. □

Example 5.2. *There is a Parseval frame for ℓ_2 which can be written as j -linearly independent and disjoint spanning sets, for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$. (Note that $j = \infty$ is included here).*

Proof. We use the family $\{g_{ij}\}_{i,j=1}^\infty$ from Example 5.1 and form the Parseval frame

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{2^j} g_{ij} \right\}_{i,j=1}^\infty.$$

This is the required family. □

6. MORE ON THE INFINITE VERSION OF PROPERTY [D6]

In this section we will further examine property [D6]. Unfortunately, it is dangerously close to Kadison-Singer. First, we give an alternative proof of Corollary 2.4 of [10].

Definition 6.1. *A family of vectors $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is ω -independent if whenever*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i \varphi_i = 0,$$

it follows that $a_i = 0$, for all $i = 1, 2, \dots$. If we have this property only for all $\{a_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \in \ell_2$, we say the family of vectors is ℓ_2 -independent.

Theorem 6.2. *Let $\{Pe_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ be a Parseval frame in \mathcal{H} . If $I \subset \mathbb{N}$, the following are equivalent:*

- 1. *The family $\{Pe_i\}_{i \in I}$ spans $P(\mathcal{H})$.*
- 2. *The family $\{(I - P)e_i\}_{i \in I^c}$ is ℓ_2 -independent.*

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): Assume that $\{(I - P)e_i\}_{i \in I^c}$ is not ℓ_2 -independent. Then there exists scalars $\{b_i\}_{i \in I^c} \in \ell_2$ so that

$$\sum_{i \in I^c} b_i(I - P)e_i = 0.$$

It follows that

$$f = \sum_{i \in I^c} b_i e_i = \sum_{i \in I^c} b_i P e_i \in P(\mathcal{H}).$$

Thus,

$$\langle f, P e_j \rangle = \langle P f, e_j \rangle = \sum_{i \in I^c} b_i \langle e_i, e_j \rangle = 0, \quad \text{if } j \neq i. \text{ i.e. if } j \in I.$$

So $f \perp \text{span} \{P e_i\}_{i \in I}$, and this family is not spanning for $P(\mathcal{H})$.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): First assume there is an $f \in P(\mathcal{H})$ so that $f \perp \text{span} \{P e_i\}_{i \in I}$. Then, $f = \sum_{i \in I} a_i P e_i$. Also,

$$\langle f, P e_i \rangle = \langle P f, e_i \rangle = \langle f, e_i \rangle = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in I.$$

Hence, $f = \sum_{i \in I^c} b_i e_i$, with not all $b_i = 0$ and $\{b_i\}_{i \in I^c} \in \ell_2$. Thus,

$$\sum_{i \in I^c} b_i e_i = f = P f = \sum_{i \in I^c} b_i P e_i.$$

i.e.

$$\sum_{i \in I^c} b_i(I - P)e_i = 0.$$

That is, $(I - P)e_i\}_{i \in I^c}$ is not ℓ_2 -independent. \square

Corollary 6.3. *The property [D6] is true for unit norm 2-tight frames if and only if whenever $\{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$ is a unit norm 2-tight frame then there is a partition $\{I_1, I_2\}$ of \mathbb{N} so that $\{\varphi_i\}_{i \in I_j}$ is ℓ_2 -independent for $j = 1, 2$.*

If we examine the proof above, we see that what is proved is really the following:

Corollary 6.4. *Let $\{e_i\}_{i \in I}$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H} and $\{P e_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a Parseval frame for $P(\mathcal{H})$. If*

$$\varphi \in \text{span} \{e_i\}_{i \in J} \cap P(\mathcal{H}),$$

then $\varphi \perp \text{span} \{P e_i\}_{i \in J^c}$.

In particular, the following are equivalent for a subset $J \subset I$:

(1) *We have*

$$\text{span} \{e_i\}_{i \in J} \cap P(\mathcal{H}) \neq \{0\},$$

(2) *We have*

$$\text{span} \{P e_i\}_{i \in J^c} \neq \mathcal{H}.$$

(3) *The family $\{(I - P)e_i\}_{i \in J}$ is not ℓ_2 -independent.*

Remark 6.5. *Note that the above corollary unifies the finite linearly independent result with the infinite one. i.e. The same theorem above holds with $|I|$ finite and linearly independent for part (3).*

Remark 6.6. *The above also raises the question if there is an infinite dimensional Rado-Horn Theorem. But we are not sure what it should say at this time.*

We note that property [D6] is an infinite dimensional version of a result from [?]. In this paper, using variations of the discrete Fourier transform matrices, the authors construct families of unit norm 2-tight frames for \mathcal{H}_n , so that whenever you partition the frame vectors into two subsets, the lower Riesz bound of one of the subsets is on the order of $1/n$. For a counter-example to [D6], we are looking for unit norm 2-tight frames for ℓ_2 so that whenever you divide the frame vectors into two sets, one of them is not ℓ_2 -independent.

Finally, let us observe that we can find an equal norm Parseval frame with the above properties. This example is due to Bodmann, Casazza, Paulsen, and Speegle.

Example 6.7. *For any $E \subset [0, 1]$ measurable, the family*

$$\{e^{2\pi i n t} \chi_E\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}},$$

can be written as k , ℓ_2 -independent spanning sets for all $k = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$.

7. SOME NOTES

It is possible that there is a better notion of redundancy than that given in [9]. The problem with that notion is that if we apply an invertible operator to a frame, we get different redundancy. Intuitively, this should not give a different value. A possible alternative definition is:

Definition 7.1. *Given a frame $\Phi = \{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^N$ in \mathcal{H}_n with frame operator S , let for each $x \in \mathbb{S}$, the redundancy function $\mathcal{R}_\Phi : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is defined by*

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|P_{\langle S^{-1/2}(\varphi_i) \rangle}(x)\|^2.$$

Definition 7.2. *Let $\Phi = (\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$ be a frame for \mathcal{H} . Then the upper redundancy of Φ is defined by*

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^+ = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{S}} \mathcal{R}_\Phi(x)$$

and the lower redundancy of Φ by

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \inf_{x \in \mathbb{S}} \mathcal{R}_\Phi(x).$$

Moreover, Φ has a uniform redundancy, if

$$\mathcal{R}_\Phi^- = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+.$$

This notion of redundancy equals the upper and lower frame bounds of the normalized version of the canonical Parseval frame to Φ .

This definition seems to lose some of the properties of the original definition - which needs to be checked - such as

[D4] Do these hold? Especially, if we add a Parseval frame to a frame, do these redundancies increase by 1?

[D5] Does

$$\mathcal{R}_{(c_i \varphi_i)_{i=1}^N}^\pm = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^\pm, \quad c_i \text{ scalars,}$$

Everything else seems to hold. But we do pick up a new result that redundancy is invariant under application of an invertible operator.

Theorem 7.3. *If $\Phi = \{\varphi_i\}_{i=1}^N$ is a frame for \mathcal{H}_n and T is an invertible operator on \mathcal{H}_n , then for all $x \in \mathcal{H}_n$ we have*

$$\mathcal{R}_{T(\Phi)}^+(x) = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^+(x), \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{R}_{T(\Phi)}^-(x) = \mathcal{R}_\Phi^-(x).$$

Proof. Let S (resp. S_T) be the frame operator for Φ (resp. $T(\Phi)$). Then $S^{-1/2}\Phi$ is equivalent to Φ which is equivalent to $T(\Phi)$ which is equivalent to $S_1^{-1/2}(T\Phi)$. Since both of these frames are Parseval, it follows from [16] that there is a unitary operator U satisfying:

$$U[(S^{-1/2}(\Phi))] = S_1^{-1/2}(T\Phi).$$

The result is obvious from here. □

Alert: Unfortunately, this new idea for a definition does not work. We will now give an example to show that the upper frame bound of the normalized version of a Parseval frame is not related to the number of linearly independent sets we can partition the family into.

Example 7.4. *Fix N and let $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^N$ be an orthonormal basis for \mathcal{H}_N . We will build a Parseval frame for \mathcal{H}_N in pieces. First, we build the sets*

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_i, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_i \quad \text{for all } i = 2, 3, \dots, N.$$

This family is a frame for \mathcal{H}_N with frame operator having eigenvectors $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^N$ and respective eigenvalues

$$\left\{ \frac{N-1}{N}, \frac{1}{N}, \frac{1}{N}, \dots, \frac{1}{N} \right\}$$

Hence, if we add to this family the vectors

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}e_1 \right\} \cup \left\{ \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{N}}e_i \right\}_{i=2}^N,$$

then we will have a Parseval frame which can clearly be divided into 3 linearly independent sets. Namely, divide the first set into

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_i \right\}_{i=2}^N$$

and

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2N}}e_i \right\}_{i=2}^N$$

and the third set is already linearly independent. However, if we normalize the vectors, we get a frame:

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e_1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e_i \right\}_{i=2}^N,$$

plus $\{e_i\}_{i=2}^N$. For this family, if we check the frame bound at say e_1 we get:

$$\sum_{i=2}^N |\langle e_1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e_1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e_i \rangle|^2 = \frac{N-1}{2}.$$

That is, the upper frame bound of the normalized version of this Parseval frame is unrelated to the number of linearly independent sets we can divide it into.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In the case of infinite redundancy, it is possible that our upper frame bound is infinity. It is not clear at this time if anything can be concluded from this case.

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